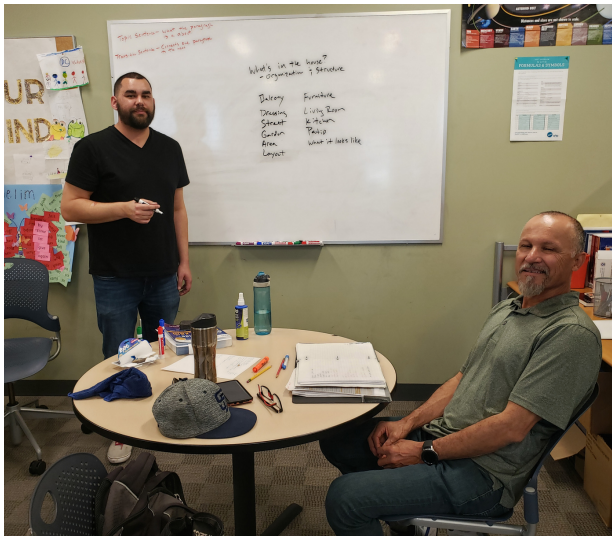




# LITERACY SERVICES

A MONTHLY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021 • ISSUE 2



## WHAT'S INSIDE

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Sign Up for Citizenship  
Classes!

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Tutor of the Year  
Cris Mendez

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Classes and Activity

## TUTOR OF THE YEAR

Back in early 2020, we decided to implement a Tutor of the Year award that was to be presented during our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. With a large crowd, and everyone involved with the many successes of the Library and Literacy Services. We have many amazing tutors, volunteers, and instructors and we just really wanted to thank those that went above and beyond for Literacy Services and their learners.

With 2020, and its many difficulties, Volunteer Appreciation Night was postponed and so was the opportunity to present the award to our chosen Tutor of the Year. We always wanted this to be a cherished and meaningful event and held off as long as we could until we reopened. With a year now having passed, we did not want to delay this award any longer and decided to present the award to our Tutor of the Year in a simple manner via curbside pickup, and instead postpone the celebration for the next opportunity we are able to hold our annual appreciation event.

This issue will be a tribute to our Tutor of the Year.





# LITERACY SERVICES

A MONTHLY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

## You can join until May 4th!



**National  
City  
Public  
Library**

### **CITIZENSHIP CLASSES ONLINE**

**FREE 10-WEEK CLASSES TO PREPARE FOR THE  
CITIZENSHIP TEST AND INTERVIEW**

#### **Course Goals:**

- Learn about the Naturalization process
- Study the 100 Civics and U.S. History questions
- Prepare for your interview with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Receive Naturalization eligibility screening from a JFS Immigration Specialist
- Connect with other individuals and families working through the same process!

#### **Class #1**

**Date:** April 20th- June 24th, 2021

**Time:** Tuesdays/ Thursdays starting at 11:30am

#### **Class #2**

**Date:** April 20th- June 24th, 2021

**Time:** Tuesdays/ Thursdays starting at 4:30pm

**Registration:** Contact Literacy Services

at (619)470-5860 or

[literacy@nationalcitylibrary.org](mailto:literacy@nationalcitylibrary.org)

#### **Class #3**

**Date:** April 26th- June 30th, 2021

**Time:** Mondays/ Wednesdays starting at 5pm

In partnership with the Jewish Family Service







## OUR TUTOR OF THE YEAR, CRIS MENDEZ!

CRIS M. - NATIONAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY INSTRUCTOR AND TUTOR

In 1978, I worked at the International Center for Language Studies in Bogota, as an ESL instructor during an extended stay in Colombia. I found the experience rewarding and the eagerness learners displayed inspiring. On my return to the U.S., I enrolled in college, met my future husband, and life continued. Nonetheless, I remembered with fondness my experience teaching ESL to learners, ranging in age 18 to 60, who were seeking employment as flight attendants, in the field of hospitality and tourism to established corporate executives to retirees, stay-at-home mothers, and other delightful individuals.

**An ESL Opening and Literacy Services:** Fast-forward to January 2018. An email I received from the literacy services at the National City Public Library highlighted an opening for a volunteer ESL tutor. On the spot, I applied. After orientation, I was asked to lead a class. I entered the classroom with a flutter of butterflies in my stomach, but instantly, I felt at ease. Soon after, I was assigned to tutor a learner preparing for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam. Within a few months, a learner skilled with computers joined, then the third learner, and a wonderful ESL trio was formed. Shortly thereafter, I was offered a group of learners for an evening class followed by another group for a morning class, and the fun amplified.

**Working with Volunteers:** Together with student volunteers, Cindy, Ivonne and Violet, we contributed to learners practicing reading and speaking in English in workshops, such as Commonly Misused Phrases, 43 Common Grammar Mistakes, Dive Into the Exciting Life of a Verb, 25 Advanced Business English Words You Need, The Nuts and Bolts of Grammar, Two Sides to English: Formal vs. Informal, to name a few. In an easy-going setting, learners apply techniques to assist with pronunciation. Granted, the absence of in-class tutoring is terribly missed, nevertheless, thank goodness for Zoom!

Continued...



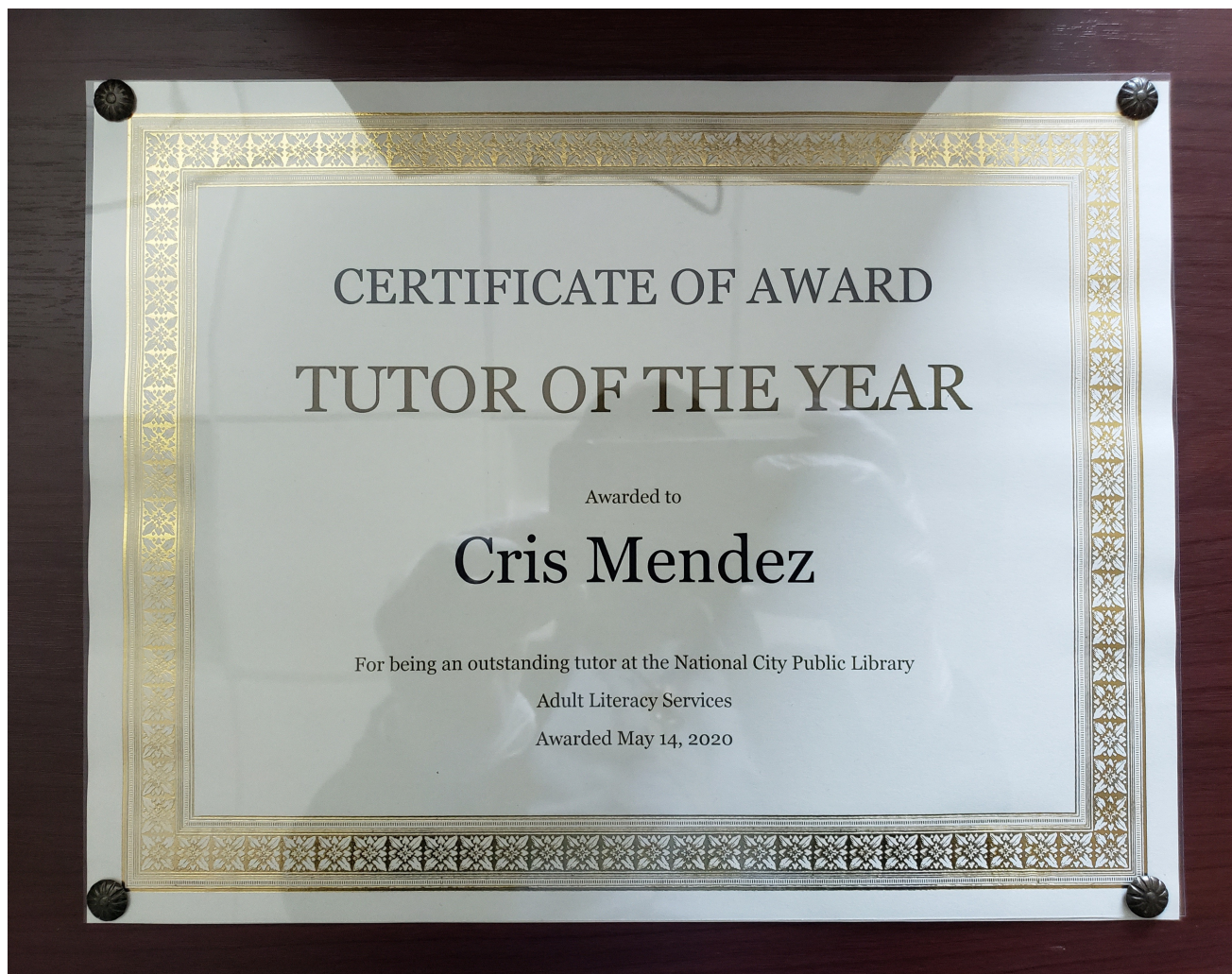
**Subjects I Tutor:** Aside from tutoring ESL, I enjoy sharing tips to make essay-writing an easy undertaking. I also work with learners on what to do before, during and after a job interview, including the steps to take when presenting factual information on resumes and letters when the goal is to persuade the reader to take action.

**Why I Tutor:** My tutoring experience with learners is wonderful. However, in large measure, I tutor because the literacy services coordinator, Mikki Vidamo, is supportive. Mikki offers teaching material, student volunteers, and resources. Additionally, Mikki's leadership style is optimistic by way of welcoming ideas. For instance, I suggested reaching out to different organizations for promotions and partnerships, created workshops, contacted local Hispanic radio stations and The Filipino Press with media releases to promote ESL, and encouraged student volunteers to lead classes. His positive feedback and brainstorming made it happen.

**Why I Recommend Tutoring:** Whether an individual is a tutor or a learner, everyone has something to contribute. Seek tutoring in math, ESL, computer readiness, writing classes, as well as unconventional classes, such as driver's license and citizenship test preparation—knowledge is key. I often share with learners: as I am getting older, the more I realize there is still a great deal for me to learn.

**Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding. ~William Arthur Ward**

Cristina Mendez-Medina, Tutor  
Literacy Services, National City Public Library



### **ESL CLASSES**

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Basic English classes available,  
limited space!

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Work on vocabulary, grammar,  
and speaking.

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Mondays and Wednesdays  
5:30-6:30pm

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### **COMPUTER CLASSES**

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EXCEL

Monday and Wednesdays  
3pm-430pm

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POWERPOINT

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
3pm-430pm

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WORD and Zoom

Mon/Wed - Tues/Thurs  
130-230pm

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**SIGN UP NOW TO BE A VOLUNTEER,  
OR TAKE OUR CLASSES AND  
TUTORING SESSIONS!**

**APPLY NOW!**

**Call 619-470-5860 or email  
[literacy@nationalcitylibrary.org](mailto:literacy@nationalcitylibrary.org)**

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